

services from the entire monthly benefit amount received, including any payment of a federally-administered State supplementary payment under subpart T of this part.

(8) In the case of an institutionalized beneficiary a fee may not be withheld from benefits which must be set aside for the beneficiary's personal needs in accordance with § 416.640(c).

[57 FR 23057, June 1, 1992; 57 FR 27091, June 17, 1992]

**§ 416.641 Liability for misuse of benefit payments.**

Our obligation to the beneficiary is completely discharged when we make a correct payment to a representative payee on behalf of the beneficiary. The payee personally, and not SSA, may be liable if the payee misuses the beneficiary's benefits.

**§ 416.645 Conservation and investment of benefit payments.**

(a) *General.* If payments are not needed for the beneficiary's current maintenance or reasonably foreseeable needs, they shall be conserved or invested on behalf of the beneficiary. Conserved funds should be invested in accordance with the rules followed by trustees. Any investment must show clearly that the payee holds the property in trust for the beneficiary.

*Example:* A State institution for mentally retarded children, which is receiving Medicaid funds, is representative payee for several beneficiaries. The checks the payee receives are deposited into one account which shows that the benefits are held in trust for the beneficiaries. The institution has supporting records which show the share each individual has in the account. Funds from this account are disbursed fairly quickly after receipt for the personal needs of the beneficiaries. However, not all those funds were disbursed for this purpose. As a result, several of the beneficiaries have significant accumulated resources in this account. For those beneficiaries whose benefits have accumulated over \$150, the funds should be deposited in an interest-bearing account or invested relatively free of risk on behalf of the beneficiaries.

(b) *Preferred investments.* Preferred investments for excess funds are U.S. Savings Bonds and deposits in an interest or dividend paying account in a bank, trust company, credit union, or savings and loan association which is

insured under either Federal or State law. The account must be in a form which shows clearly that the representative payee has only a fiduciary and not a personal interest in the funds. If the payee is the legally appointed guardian or fiduciary of the beneficiary, the account may be established to indicate this relationship. If the payee is not the legally appointed guardian or fiduciary, the accounts may be established as follows:

(1) For U.S. Savings Bonds—

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of beneficiary) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Social Security Number), for whom  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of payee) is representative payee for Supplemental Security Income benefits;

(2) For interest or dividend paying accounts—

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of beneficiary) by  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of payee), representative payee.

(c) *Interest and dividend payments.* The interest and dividends which result from an investment are the property of the beneficiary and may not be considered to be the property of the payee.

**§ 416.650 When a new representative payee will be selected.**

When we learn that the interests of the beneficiary are not served by continuing payment to the present payee or that the present payee is no longer able to carry out the payee responsibilities, we try to find a new payee. We will select a new payee if we find a preferred payee or if the present payee—

(a) Has not used the benefit payments on the beneficiary's behalf in accordance with the guidelines in this subpart;

(b) Has not carried out the other responsibilities described in this subpart;

(c) Dies;

(d) No longer wishes to be payee;

(e) Is unable to manage the benefit payments; or

(f) Fails to cooperate, within a reasonable time, in providing evidence, accounting, or other information which we request.

**§ 416.655 When representative payment will be stopped.**

If a beneficiary receiving representative payment shows us that he or she is